standard of time. As soon as the cable companies agree upon such a standard there will be a fair prospect of its adoption by the newspapers and, eventually, by all civilized communities. Meanwhile, the elaborate table published in the London Geographical Magazine for February, 1899, will be very useful to those who are studying the cable reports from all parts of the world published in our daily papers.

SENSIBLE TEMPERATURES.

In the midst of the hot weather in the summer of 1898, an editorial in the New York Times suggested that the Weather Bureau modify the terms "warmer" and "cooler," as employed in forecasting the temperature.

Hitherto these terms have been supposed to refer exclusively to the temperature of the air, as indicated by the dry bulb thermometer. The suggestion is made that we combine the figures indicating temperature, humidity, and velocity of the winds into a single figure that would express just what people mean when they say and feel that the day is hot or cold. The new suggested figure would vary directly with the temperature and humidity, but inversely as the velocity of the wind.

The problem is much more difficult than is here suggested. We have frequently explained that the sensation of temperature differs with every individual, and will vary with the same individual according to his physical and mental condition. We think it must be left to each individual to predict his own sensations when once the Weather Bureau has predicted the temperature, moisture, and pressure of air and the velocity of the wind.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD "BLIZZARD."

On page 562 of the December REVIEW, we have given a reference to the use of the word "blizzard" as quoted from the Hutchinson County Herald, but it appears that the original of this goes further back, viz, to the "Dakota Republican," published at Vermilion during the winter of 1867–68.

FORESTS AND SNOWFALL.

In the January report of the Wyoming section, Mr. W. S. Palmer states that the snowfall for the month was unusually heavy, and a corresponding amount of moisture is thus stored for irrigation during the next summer. The average snowfall for the State was 15.2 inches. At the end of the month the snow was from 31 to 48 inches deep on the summits of a number of hills and peaks. On the snowy range the depth was 21 inches at an elevation of 8,700 feet, 16 inches at 9,000 feet, 24 inches at 10,000, and 43 inches at 11,000 feet. Mr. A. L. Foster, reporting on the snowy range, says:

The second growth of timber continues to hold from 6 to 10 inches more snow than the larger and more thickly wooded districts. Water in all streams is above the normal.

We have here an allusion to a very important service rendered by the forest. The latter retards the flow of the wind among its branches and foliage, and affords abundant opportunity for the driven snow to settle and rest upon the ground. It does not increase the quantity of moisture, but it preserves the fallen snow and rain to a remarkable extent.

RECENT EARTHQUAKES.

Reports from Mexico describe the earthquake of Monday evening, January 24, as the severest ever known in the City of Mexico. The first oscillation began at 5:09 p. m., local time. It was from northeast to southwest and lasted one minute and fifty-six seconds. Three minutes later came a second shock, which lasted five seconds, oscillating northwest and southeast. The earthquake was felt over the entire Republic of Mexico. At Colima it lasted one minute and twenty seconds; at Vera Cruz it lasted ten seconds. But few reports of this earthquake have been received from the United States, although it must have been feebly felt at many stations.

At San Bernardino, Cal., a shock was felt at 4:45 p. m., January 25. The newspapers of that city state that the shock was of a little greater severity than usual and that the barometer dropped from 30.12 to 29.86, "an unusual occurrence during a norther, probably due to an earthquake." Of course the latter suggestion is wholly inadmissible, and popular ignorance of this subject should not be increased by disseminating the idea that the atmospheric pressure can be affected by an earthquake. On the other hand, there is some basis for the idea that in rare cases a large change in the atmospheric pressure may give occasion for an earthquake, a result that is barely conceivable, but has never yet been demonstrated.

The Marvin seismograph at Washington recorded no earthquake during January. Professor Morley reports that his seismograph at Cleveland, Ohio, showed a considerable disturbance some time during the month. The direction of the vibrations was 10° east of north and 10° west of south, and there were about half a dozen vibrations. Having been laid up with illness, Professor Morley was unable to examine his apparatus at the proper time, and therefore could not state the date of the occurrence. The fact that no other station in the United States reported the Mexican earthquake of January 24 would indicate that the disturbance at Cleveland must have occurred on some other date.

DESCRIPTION OF TABLES AND CHARTS.

By ALFRED J. HENRY, Chief of Division of Records and Meteorological Data.

Table I gives, for about 130 Weather Bureau stations making two observations daily and for about 20 others making only one observation, the data ordinarily needed for climatological studies, viz, the monthly mean pressure, the monthly means and extremes of temperature, the average conditions as to moisture, cloudiness, movement of the wind, and the departures from normals in the case of pressure, temperature, and precipitation, the total depth of snowfall, and the mean wet-bulb temperatures. The altitudes of the instruments above ground are also given.

Table II gives, for about 2,700 stations occupied by voluntary observers, the highest maximum and the lowest minimum temperatures, the mean temperature deduced from the average of all the daily maxima and minima, or other readings, as indicated by the numeral following the name of the station; the total monthly precipitation, and the total depth in inches of any snow that may have fallen. When the spaces in the snow column are left blank it indicates that no snow has fallen, but when it is possible that there may have been snow of which no record has been made, that fact is indicated by leaders, thus (. . . .).

Table III gives, for 26 stations selected out of 113 that main-